



BILLERICA

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Billerica is located 20 miles northwest of Boston and borders Lowell to the south. Incorporated in 1655, the town remained predominately agricultural until the mid-nineteenth century when a major mill complex was sited on the Concord River in North Billerica. Although a number of smaller industries grew up over the next 100 years, it wasn't until the 1950's that the present day industrial base was established. Today Billerica is a major regional employer and home to several high technology firms, many of which are offshoots of companies along Route 128 to the south.

Currently Billerica has close to 40,000 residents, having grown rapidly from 10,000 residents in 1950. The majority of homes are located within residential subdivisions, although significant older neighborhoods exist in the town center, North Billerica, Pinehurst and Nutting Lake.

The town is within minutes of Route 3 and Route 495, both major limited access highways. The town has bus and train service provided by the Lowell Regional Transit Authority and the MBTA at North Billerica. The remnants of the historic Middlesex Canal, an outmoded mode of transport, traverse the town north to south.

Two rivers pass through town. The Concord River is a major regional water feature while the Shawsheen River meanders through the southerly part of town.

Billerica is also the site of the Middlesex House of Correction, a significant town employer.

Even though much of Billerica has been developed, there are still significant parcels of vacant land which lend a certain rural character to many areas of town.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Carlisle and Chelmsford on the west, Lowell and Tewksbury on the north, Wilmington and Burlington on the east, and Bedford on the south. Billerica is 19 miles north of Boston, 23 miles northwest of Lynn, 45 miles northeast of Worcester, and 205 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 26.39 sq. miles

Land Area: 25.89 sq. miles

Population: 37,609

Density: 1,453 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Billerica, Wilmington

Regional Planning Agency

Northern Middlesex

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Lowell



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 671-0942

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1655

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	19,732		
Democrats	7,513	38.1	%
Republicans	2,440	12.4	%
Other parties	7	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	9,772	49.5	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Billerica town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	38,981	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	38,981	100.0
Male.....	19,823	50.9	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	600	1.5
Female.....	19,158	49.1	Mexican.....	84	0.2
Under 5 years.....	2,689	6.9	Puerto Rican.....	178	0.5
5 to 9 years.....	2,912	7.5	Cuban.....	36	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	2,843	7.3	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	302	0.8
15 to 19 years.....	2,434	6.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	38,381	98.5
20 to 24 years.....	2,002	5.1	White alone.....	36,487	93.6
25 to 34 years.....	5,931	15.2	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	7,553	19.4	Total population.....	38,981	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	5,462	14.0	In households.....	37,759	96.9
55 to 59 years.....	2,274	5.8	Householder.....	12,919	33.1
60 to 64 years.....	1,621	4.2	Spouse.....	8,535	21.9
65 to 74 years.....	1,954	5.0	Child.....	13,047	33.5
75 to 84 years.....	1,012	2.6	Own child under 18 years.....	9,158	23.5
85 years and over.....	294	0.8	Other relatives.....	1,992	5.1
Median age (years).....	35.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	684	1.8
18 years and over.....	28,947	74.3	Nonrelatives.....	1,266	3.2
Male.....	14,631	37.5	Unmarried partner.....	517	1.3
Female.....	14,316	36.7	In group quarters.....	1,222	3.1
21 years and over.....	27,730	71.1	Institutionalized population.....	1,094	2.8
62 years and over.....	4,162	10.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	128	0.3
65 years and over.....	3,260	8.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,376	3.5	Total households.....	12,919	100.0
Female.....	1,884	4.8	Family households (families).....	10,246	79.3
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	4,838	37.4
One race.....	38,594	99.0	Married-couple family.....	8,535	66.1
White.....	36,906	94.7	With own children under 18 years.....	4,137	32.0
Black or African American.....	432	1.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,217	9.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	39	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	528	4.1
Asian.....	1,074	2.8	Nonfamily households.....	2,674	20.7
Asian Indian.....	412	1.1	Householder living alone.....	2,113	16.4
Chinese.....	277	0.7	Householder 65 years and over.....	679	5.3
Filipino.....	90	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	5,309	41.1
Japanese.....	25	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	2,392	18.5
Korean.....	62	0.2	Average household size.....	2.92	(X)
Vietnamese.....	57	0.1	Average family size.....	3.30	(X)
Other Asian ¹	151	0.4	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	16	-	Total housing units.....	13,071	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	12,919	98.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	10	-	Vacant housing units.....	152	1.2
Samoa.....	4	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	2	-	occasional use.....	16	0.1
Some other race.....	127	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.2	(X)
Two or more races.....	387	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.0	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	12,919	100.0
White.....	37,257	95.6	Owner-occupied housing units.....	10,899	84.4
Black or African American.....	534	1.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	2,020	15.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	156	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.06	(X)
Asian.....	1,171	3.0	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.20	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	25	0.1			
Some other race.....	254	0.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 204

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 55



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Billerica is situated in the Merrimac River Valley, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 3 and State Routes 3A and 129. Interstate 495, the "Outer Belt" around Boston, is easily accessible in the neighboring town of Chelmsford.

Rail

Commuter rail service is available from North Billerica to North Station, Boston. Travel time: 37-41 min.; 333 MBTA parking spaces available. The Springfield Terminal Railway offers freight service to Billerica and operates the Devens Tradeport Warehouse and Distribution Center. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Billerica is a member of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA), which provides fixed bus service between Lowell and Billerica. In addition, paratransit services, including medical trips to Boston and special work trips, are available for the elderly and disabled through LRTA's Road Runner program.

Other

L.G. Hanscom Field, a reliever Airport with Commercial Service (CR), has a 5,106' asphalt and a 7,001' asphalt and concrete runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. Billerica is within easy trucking distance of the Boston docks and Logan International Airport. Tew-Mac Airport, in Tewksbury, has two paved runways of 2,600' and 2,832'. Instrument approaches available: None.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Country View Nursing Home

N.E. Pediatric Care

Simmons Nursing Home, Inc.

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.